

Dave turns back the clock

**Wycombe Wanderers 3,
Internationals Club 0**

DAVE Underwood, the former Liverpool and Fulham goalkeeper, turned the clock back at Loakes Park on Thursday night with a great display of goalkeeping that had the crowd cheering in appreciation (writes Stuart Earp).

Dave was one of many former professional footballers turning out for the Internationals Club against Wycombe Wanderers in aid of the S.P.A.R.K.S. charity organisation. Among the players were Ron Greenwood, the West Ham manager, Bill Dodgin, (ex-Fulham) and Gerry Summers, Oxford United's boss.

Summers, in fact, looked a class player in midfield and seemed to have lost none of his footballing skills while Greenwood, Dodgin and Dave Sexton, the Chelsea manager, all showed many useful touches.

The internationals' football relied much on accurate passing and slow build ups. Several moves were attractive but they were never allowed near enough to the Wycombe net to cause any danger. Greenwood and Dodgin, the two centre backs for the visitors, were seldom put under any real pressure and apart from their obvious lack of pace, dealt pretty well with everything that came their way.

Apparently some of the internationals felt Wanderers took the game a bit too seriously. I felt they played the game hard, as it should be, and apart from some slack finishing, gave a good account of themselves.

There was one surprise inclusion in the Wanderers line-up — Mick Mellows, who was one of the Isthmian League championship winning side last year. Mick told me he was just playing the one game for the Blues and wasn't sure whether he would be back next season. Without doubt he would be a more than useful acquisition.

The internationals started the game well and both Frank Sibley (Q.P.R.) and Ken Witfield (Watford) had chances but sent them wide of Peter Spittle's goal.

It was Wanderers who broke through first, when Mick Holifield shot them into a 22nd minute lead with a fine goal. Keith Searle made all the running, outpacing the defence to the by-line and crossing low. Holifield was at full stretch racing in and gave Underwood no chance with a perfect shot into the corner.

In the 32nd minute Wycombe went two up with a penalty. Searle again outran the defence and was closing in on goal when he was upended by keeper Underwood. Football League referee Mr. Gordon Kew of Amersham, promptly awarded the penalty which Searle placed home.

Wanderers made three changes at half time amongst them Kenny Swain, who soon made an impression by beating two defenders and forcing a good save from Underwood. It was the first of many great stops by the 'keeper who soon made friends with the crowd behind the goal.

He was left helpless with Wycombe's third goal, however, in the 48th minute. The move that led up to the goal was superb with Mellows, Holifield and Brian Langfield all combining with precise passing. Holifield crossed into the box and Tony Horseman was left with plenty of time to select his spot.

The Internationals challenge understandably tailed off in the second half as they began to tire but they managed to carve out the occasional chance, mainly from long range. Many of their attacks were spoilt by using the square ball into midfield where they were often dispossessed.

Underwood came to their rescue many times in the last

half hour, mainly from Swain who dribbled through the defence with ease. One superb run saw him leave two defenders standing but his shot struck the upright.

In the closing stages, however, the game petered out with Wycombe becoming individualistic. Too many players tried to go it alone and were generally off target with their finishing. The best effort came from Mellows whose rising left foot drive forced Underwood to push the ball around the post for a corner.

But the main object of the exercise was fund raising and although the 903 crowd was rather disappointing, a collection on the ground brought in a further £26 for S.P.A.R.K.S.

Before the game and at half time the Southern Youth Highlanders Pipes and Drum band entertained the crowd.

WYCOMBE: P. Spittle, I. Rundle, D. Bullock, J. Delaney (sub. K. Swain 45 mins.), D. Gamblin (sub. P. Birdseye 45 mins.), L. Pritchard, A. Gane, M. Holifield, B. Langfield, K. Searle (sub. A. Horseman 45 mins.), M. Mellows.

INTERNATIONALS: D. Underwood (Liverpool), M. Brown (Oxford), J. Lyall (Watford), G. Summers (Oxford), R. Greenwood (West Ham), W. Dodgin (Fulham), D. Sexton (Chelsea), W. Taylor (Fulham), K. Witfield (Watford), Frank Sibley (Q.P.R.), D. Underwood jnr.

Referee: G. Kew (Amersham).

Half time: 2-0. **Goalscorers** (Wycombe — Holifield (22), Searle pen. (32), Horseman (48).

Attendance: 903.